

## Message Text

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63

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ADP-00 DPW-01 IO-12 AID-20 PM-09

H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01

SS-15 USIA-12 RSR-01 /150 W  
----- 096301

R 180210 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4130

INFO WHITE HOUSE

CIA

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY WARASW

CINCPAC

CINCUSARPAC

CINCPACAF

CINCPACFLT

DEPCHJUSMAGTHAI

CDR USSAG NKP

CDR 13 AF ADVON UDORN

USDEL JEC PARIS

SECDEF

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 3696

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, PGOV, PINS, PINT, PFOR, MARR, MASS,

MCAP, LA, US, VN, XC

SUBJECT: TWELFTH WEEK OF LAO CEASEFIRE

REF: VIENTIANE 3578

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CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

BEGIN SUMMARY: GROUND AND AIR ACTION IN LAOS DURING WEEK 10-16 MAY EDGED TO A NEW LOW OF 15 TOTAL MAJOR AND MINOR INCIDENTS, AS COMPARED TO LAST WEEK'S TOTAL OF 17. MOST INCIDENTS CONSISTED OF MINOR SHELLINGS OR SMALL UNIT CLASHES. EVEN TWO " MAJOR " INCIDENTS REPORTED RESULTED IN ZERO CASUALTIES. RLAF FLEW A TOTAL OF 14 T-28 AND 6 AC-47 SORTIES, MOST IN SUPPORT OF TROOPS IN CONTACT WITH ENEMY. NEGOTIATIONS REMAIN AT AN IMPASSE. NATIONAL ASSEMBLY RECONVENED AND IN ELECTING ITS OFFICERS FOR 1973 MADE ONLY MINOR CHANGES. END SUMMARY

1. MILITARY: MILITARY ACTION IN LAOS DURING 12 TH WEEK OF CEASEFIRE EDGED TO NEW LOW OF 15 INCIDENTS-- TWO MAJOR AND 13 MINOR. TWO MAJOR ATTACKS OCCURRED 11 AND 14 MAY IN AREA 33 KILOMETERS NORTHEAST OF SOUKHOUMA IN SOUTHERN MR- IV AND WERE ENEMY- INITIATED. TWO MINOR CLASHES TOOK PLACE SAME AREA 14 AND 15 MAY ( NO CASUALTIES). REMAINING INCIDENTS WERE SCATTERED THROUGHOUT LAOS. FRIENDLY CASUALTIES, INCURRED IN ONLY 3 OF THE INCIDENTS, TOTALED 3 KIA AND 2 WIA. ARTILLERY EXPENDITURES FOR PERIOD WERE 80 TOTAL ROUNDS, 30 IN MR III AND 50 IN MR IV. RLAF FLEW 14 T-28 AND 6 AF-47 SORTIES MOST WHICH WERE IN SUPPORT OF FRIENDLY TROOPS IN CONTACT WITH ENEMY.

A. POLITICAL - NEGOTIATIONS REMAIN AT AN IMPASSE. LPF SPECIAL ADVISOR PHOUMI VONGVICHIT AND RLG SENIOR NEGOTIATOR PHENG PHONGSAVAN, CONTINUING THEIR PERIODIC MEETINGS, MET THIS WEEK FOR THE SEVENTH TIME SINCE PHOUMI'S RETURN TO VIENTIANE IN LATE APRIL. THE LPF HAS ISSUED A COMMUNIQUE ASSERTING THAT WEEKLY SESSIONS BETWEEN DELEGATIONS SHOULD BE RESUMED. SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS HAD NEVER BEEN CONDUCTED IN THOSE SESSIONS, AND THE LPF STATEMENT MAY INDICATE AN INTENT TO INTENSIFY ITS LOCAL PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN. PRIME MINISTER SOUVANNA PHOUMA ON MAY 14 GAVE THE LPF A NEW PROPOSAL WITH SOME SLIGHT NEW TWISTS ON THE ISSUES OF PORTFOLIOS IN THE NEW PGNU, SECURITY FOR LPF MINISTERS AND SUPERVISION OF THE CEASE-FIRE. THE PRIME MINISTER ACKNOWLEDGED TO CHARGE, HOW-CONFIDENTIAL

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EVER, THAT PROSPECTS FOR PROGRESS ARE NOT BRIGHT AT THE MOMENT AND THAT LPF IS MARKING TIME AWAITING DIRECTIONS FROM HANOI.

B. THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY RECONVENED IN REGULAR SESSION MAY 11, AND FOLLOWING DAY ELECTED OFFICERS FOR 1973. THERE WERE FEW CHANGES AND SANANIKONE FACTION SEEMS FIRMLY

IN CONTROL WITH PHOUI SANANIKONE AS ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT.  
DEAN

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NMAFVVZCZ

\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL

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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**TAGS:** MARR, MASS, MCAP, MOPS, PGOV, PINS, LA, US, XC, PINT  
**To:** BANGKOK  
CIA  
EA  
JAKARTA  
LONDON  
MOSCOW  
NEW DELHI

OTTAWA  
SECSTATE WASHDC

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